

Message Text

SECRET

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ACTION EA-09

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 PM-04 NSC-05 SP-02 SS-15 CIAE-00 INR-07

NSAE-00 ACDA-07 /050 W
----- 040111

R 130108Z OCT 76
FM AMEMBASSY SEOUL
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9978
INFO SECDEF WASHDC
CINCPAC HI
JCS WASHDC

S E C R E T SEOUL 8176

CINCPAC FOR POLAD

EO 11652: GDS
TAGS: PFOR, KS, US
SUBJ: GENERAL VESSEY'S INITIAL CALL ON PRESIDENT PARK

SUMMARY: AT GENERAL VESSEY'S INITIAL CALL ON RESIDENT PARK OCTOBER 12, THE PRESIDENT EMPHASIZED NEED TO MAINTAIN HIGH STATE OF READINESS AND UNITY IN ORDER TO DETER NORTH KOREAN ATTACK. HE ALSO PREDICTED THAT WITH COMPLETION OF FIP, ROKG WULD BE READY TO MEET ANY ATTACK FROM THE NORTH.

1. GENERAL VESSEY, IN MY COMPANY, PAID HIS INTRODUCTORY CALL ON PRESIDENT PARK OCTOBER 12. WE FOUND PRESIDENT PARK IN A RELAXED, CONFIDENT MOOD.

2. MAJOR SUBSTANTIVE POINT STRESSED BY PRESIDENT PARK WAS NEED TO MAINTAIN CONSTANT ALERTNESS AGAINST NORTH KOREANS, DESPITE ACKNOWLEDGED QUIESCENCE OF NORTH KOREANS AT PRESENT TIME. HE NOTED, HOWEVER, THAT NORTH KOREANS HAD TAKEN NO FORMAL ACTION TO REDUCE THEIR HIGHEST STATE OF MILITARY READINESS DECLARED ON AUGUST 19, DESPITE REDUCTION OF OUR FORCES TO DEFCON-4. GENERAL VESSEY COMMENTED THAT THERE HAD BEEN SOME RELAXATION IN NORTH KOREAN READINESS, BUT IT WAS STILL HIGHER THAN IT HAD BEEN ON AUGUST 18.

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3. PRESIDENT PARK SAID THAT ROKG FORCES, WHILE MUCH IMPROVED OVER 1958-59 PERIOD WHEN GENERAL VESSEY HAD BEEN STATIONED IN FEOPQU, ARE STILL INFERIOR TO NORTH KOREAN IN QUALITY OF ARMS AND NUMBER OF WEAPONS. HOWEVER, ONCE FORCE IMPROVEMENT PLAN CONCLUDED, ROKG WOULD BE READY TO MEET ANY ATTACK FROM NROTH. CRITICAL FACTOR IN DISCOURAGING PROFOCATION OF WAR BY KIM IL SUNG IS NEED TO MAINTAIN CONSTANT ALERT AND NOT SHOW ANY VULNERABILITY WITHIN OUR RANKS. KIM IL SUNG WILL NOT MISJUDGE SITUATIN IF THERE IS UNITY AND READINESS OF OUR OWN FORCES.

4. PARK ELABORATED THAT SOME AMERICANS BELIEVE THAT RISK OF WAR REDUCED DUE TO RELAXATION OF TENSIONS BETWEEN U.S. ONE ONE HAND AND PRC AND USSR ON OTHER HAND. HOWEVER, IN PARKS'S VIEW, MOST IMPORTANT FACTOR WILL BE THE DETERMINATION, UNITY AND READINESS OF KOREA RATHER THAN STATE OF RELATIONS BETWEEN SOVIET UNION AND PRC ON ONE HAND AND NORTH KOREA ON OTHER HAND.

5. GENERAL VESSEY RESPONDED THAT USG WILL CONTINUE TO MAKE CLEAR TO FRIEND AND FOE ALIKE OUR DETERMINATION TO MAINTAIN OUR STRENGTH AND DEFEND SOUTH KOREA, GIVING NO EVIDENCE OF WANING OF SUPPORT. BY MAKING CLEAR OUR READINESS TO REPEL ATTACK, WE CAN DETER PROVOCATION BY THE NORTH.

6. PRESIDENT PARK ALSO ASKED ME WHETHER WE HAD ANY READING ON THE SITUATION WITHIN PRC., PARTICULARLY LATEST LONDON PRESS REPORTS THAT CHIANG-CHING AND OTHER PRC RADICALS UNDER HOUSE ARREST IN CONNECTION WITH UNSUCCESSFUL MILITARY COUP.
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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: NATIONAL SECURITY, MILITARY BUILDUP, MILITARY PLANS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 13 OCT 1976
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: coburnhl
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1976SEOUL08176
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D760384-0135
From: SEOUL
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1976/newtext/t19761056/aaaabwtj.tel
Line Count: 93
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION EA
Original Classification: SECRET
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: SECRET
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: coburnhl
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 19 MAY 2004
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <19 MAY 2004 by MartinML>; APPROVED <10 SEP 2004 by coburnhl>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
04 MAY 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: GENERAL VESSEY'S INITIAL CALL ON PRESIDENT PARK SUMMARY: AT GENERAL VESSEY'S INITIAL CALL ON RESIDENT PARK
OCTOBER 12, THE PRESIDENT EMPHASIZED NEED TO MAINT
TAGS: PFOR, MPOL, KS, US, CH, UR
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006